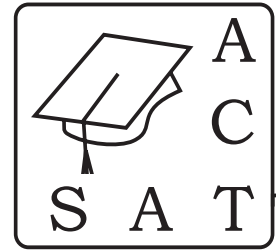


Explanatory Notes: SAT and ACT Report 10-Year Summary, 1989-1998



SAT I: Reasoning Test (SAT) and American College Testing (ACT)

High school students take the SAT and/or the ACT for admission to colleges and universities. The SAT is designed to measure verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities that are related to successful performance in college. The ACT assessment measures educational development in English, mathematics, social studies, and natural sciences. The ACT tests are designed to measure high school students' educational development as related to their readiness to pursue further study at college.

Data Source: SAT – The College Board/Educational Testing Service; ACT – American College Testing

SAT and ACT Report: 10-Year Summary

This report provides re-centered SAT data for the past decade and ACT data for the last six years. ACT data were not collected prior to 1993. The presented data enable an analysis of trends over time.

Please note that all SAT scores reported on this report are re-centered. In 1995 the College Board re-centered the score of the SAT I, reestablishing the original mean score of 500 on the 200-800 scale in order to maintain the test's statistical integrity and predictive validity.

Therefore, the scores contained in reports produced prior to 1995 are not comparable to those reported here.

This report contains two types of tables: 1) a 10-year summary table with totals for the past

decade, and 2) separate tables for each year containing gender and ethnic data.

Reports are available at the state, county, district, and school levels. School reports are produced for comprehensive high schools only. District, county, and state numbers reflect not only students enrolled in comprehensive high schools, but also students enrolled in alternative or continuation high schools. The statewide numbers in this report include public schools only.

National data are available only for public and private school students combined. A chart on page 3 of this document presents national figures. In order to compare California results with that of the nation, page 3 also contains a state-level chart including public and private school results combined. This chart will differ from the *SAT and ACT Report*, which contains only public schools.

Measurements

This summary includes not only SAT and ACT average scores, which are commonly reported in the press, but also the rate of seniors who meet the criteria of scoring at or above the national average for the two tests. In order to use a consistent standard, the 1990-91 national average scores were set as the criteria. The average score of a school on the SAT or ACT presents only part of the story. If a small percentage of students from a school take the tests, then the average score could reflect selective testing: a school may encourage only those students who are identified as "high-achieving" to take the SAT or ACT. If the percentages of students tested in two schools

differ significantly, it is impossible to compare results at the two schools on the basis of average scores. Additionally, the average tells nothing about the percentage of students from a school who take one or both of the two tests.

To address these problems, this report includes a second measure of results: the percentage of seniors scoring at or above a performance criteria based on national average scores for the two tests. This measurement has certain advantages over the average score:

- It does not penalize a school for encouraging as many students as possible to take the SAT or ACT.
- It is useful when comparing results from student subgroups with different rates of test-taking.
- It is aligned with the standards-based approach in educational assessment and accountability, which employs the percentage of students at a school who meet certain performance criteria rather than the school-level average score.
- It allows for a combining of results from both the SAT and ACT and a comparison of combined results between schools that emphasize one test or the other.

Statistics

In keeping with standard SAT and ACT reporting practices, data are provided for the graduating class of seniors. Even when students take these examinations as juniors, their results are included with their graduating class.

Grade 12 Enrollment

Enrollment information is provided to show the number of grade 12 students upon which the data are based. This is the number of students enrolled in grade 12 in October of the year prior to the year indicated. For example, 1996 SAT and ACT data result from tests taken by seniors enrolled in October of 1995. The source of these statistics is the School Information Form of the California Basic Educational Data System data

collection.

Test Takers – Number

The number of test takers is the number of seniors for whom valid test results are available.

Test Takers – Percent

The percent of test takers is the percent of seniors for whom valid test results are available. When comparing scores from two schools, it is important to note the percentage of seniors taking the test.

Average Scores

The average verbal, math, and total SAT scores are provided as is the average ACT composite score.

Meeting Criteria – Number

The number of students with a score meeting either the SAT or ACT criterion is reported. The SAT criterion is a score of 1000 or better on the total SAT. The ACT criterion is a score of 21 or better on the composite ACT subtests.

Meeting Criteria – Rate

The reported rate is based on the number of tests meeting the scoring criteria per 100 seniors. **On the combined SAT or ACT, students taking both tests and scoring above the cutpoints on both are counted only once.**

Dashes

Dashes appear in the reports when data are not available, not calculable, or when there are fewer than two seniors in a school or in a subgroup. When only one student in a school or subgroup took the SAT or ACT, that student's score is replaced by dashes.

National SAT and ACT Scores with Percent Tested

	Year									
	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
SAT										
Total	1017	1016	1013	1010	1003	1003	1001	999	1001	1006
Verbal	505	505	505	504	499	500	500	499	500	504
Math	512	511	508	506	504	503	501	500	501	502
% of seniors tested	43	42	41	41	42	43	42	41	40	40
ACT										
Composite	21.0	21.0	20.9	20.8	20.8	20.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
% of seniors tested	33.3	33.5	35	38	34	34	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Note: This chart reflects public and private school results combined.

California SAT and ACT Scores with Percent Tested

	Year									
	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
SAT										
Total	1013	1110	1006	1001	995	999	999	997	1002	1007
Verbal	497	496	495	492	489	491	491	491	494	499
Math	516	514	511	509	506	508	508	506	508	508
% of seniors tested	41	41	42	41	42	41	41	43	42	41
ACT										
Composite	21.2	21.0	21.0	20.9	21.1	21.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
% of seniors tested	10.2	10.5	10	11	10	9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Note: This chart reflects public and private school results combined.